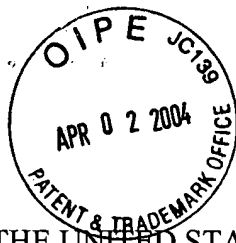


00862.023307.



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
:
HIROSHI NETSU, et al.)
:
Application No.: 10/714,652) Group Art Unit: 2861
:
Filed: November 18, 2003)
:
For: LIQUID RESERVOIR)
APPARATUS : April 1, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each non-U.S. patent document so listed is enclosed. Copies of U.S. patent documents are not enclosed, pursuant to the Notice published in the Official Gazette dated August 5, 2003.

- (1) U.S. Patent 4,313,124
- (2) U.S. Patent 4,345,262
- (3) U.S. Patent 4,459,600
- (4) U.S. Patent 4,463,359
- (5) U.S. Patent 4,558,333
- (6) U.S. Patent 4,723,129
- (7) U.S. Patent 4,740,796
- (8) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/75366
- (9) Europe 408,978
- (10) Europe 1,048,468
- (11) Germany 196 03 195

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to
our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael K. Scinto", written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 32622

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

CA_MAIN 79258 v 1

- (12) Japan 59-123670
- (13) Japan 59-138461
- (14) Japan 3-139562
- (15) Japan 4-179553
- (16) Japan 2001-1682

Documents (1) through (7) and (12 through 15) were discussed in the specification and might be deemed pertinent for the reasons given there.

The remaining documents were cited during prosecution of a European patent application corresponding to the above U.S. application. A copy of the European Search Report is enclosed.

Inasmuch as this application has not yet received a first Office Action on the merits, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3).

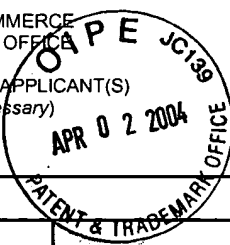
The concise explanation of relevance for the non-English documents cited above is provided by the English language abstracts included with the cited art. The Examiner is, also referred to the European Examiner's comments on the documents cited in the European counterpart.

The Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialling the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)				ATTY DOCKET NO. 00862.023307		APPLICATION NO. 10/714,652	
				APPLICANT Hiroshi Netsu, et al.			
				FILING DATE November 18, 2003		GROUP 2861	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
	.	3-139562	6/13/91	Japan			Abstract
	.	4-179553	6/26/92	Japan			Abstract
	.	2001-1682	1/9/01	Japan			Abstract
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of form with next communication to applicant.

Sheet 2 of 2

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*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		4,313,124	1/26/82	Hara	346	140 R	
		4,345,262	8/17/82	Shirato, et al	346	140 R	
		4,459,600	7/10/84	Sato, et al	346	140 R	
		4,463,359	7/31/84	Ayata, et al	346	1.1	
		4,558,333	12/10/85	Sugitani, et al	346	140 R	
		4,723,129	2/2/88	Endo, et al	346	1.1	
		4,740,796	4/26/88	Endo, et al	346	1.1	
		2002/75366	6/20/02	Smith, et al	347	86	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
		408,978	1/23/91	Europe			
		1,048,468	11/2/00	Europe			
		196 03 195	7/31/97	Germany			Abstract
		59-123670	7/17/85	Japan			Abstract
		59-138461	8/8/84	Japan			Abstract
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